

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 18, 2008. Claims 1 to 24 are currently in the application, with Claims 12 to 24 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 6 are the independent claims currently under consideration, and Claims 1 and 6 are amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

No new matter is believed to have been introduced to the application by this amendment. The changes to the claims are fully supported by the original disclosure, including, for example, original paragraphs [0032] and [0033] and original Figure 5.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102 & § 103

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 6,032,904 (Hosick); the same claims are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,622,969 (Yamashita) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,481,672 (Goodzeit); and Claims 2, 3 and 7 are rejected under U.S.C. §103 over Yamashita, Goodzeit and U.S. Patent No. 6,870,164 (Baldwin), and are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Hosick in view of Baldwin. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner and his supervisor for the thoughtful courtesies extended during the telephonic interview held on January 6, 2009. Further to the interview, Applicants have herein amended independent Claims 1 and 6 to recite that the torque deficit is based on an expected gimbaled thruster torque minus a commanded gimbaled thruster torque. At least

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because these features are not seen to be disclosed or suggested by the cited references, Claims 1-11 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims currently under consideration in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Applicant's undersigned attorney may be contacted at the address and telephone number set forth below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502203 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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